

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03  
CTME-00 ACDA-12 STR-07 AID-05 FRB-03 ICA-11  
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01  
DOE-15 SOE-02 PM-05 H-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 /142 W  
-----099254 071808Z /40

R 061151Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8231  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USMISSION USNATO  
USNMR SHAPE BE  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE LINDSEY AS GER  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VALLETTA 01635

CINCUSAFE LINDSEY FOR INCF  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN FOR INO

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR ADDED ADDEE CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN  
AB GER

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAIR, EWWT, PEPR, MT, UR  
SUBJECT: RUSSIAN DELEGATIONS - OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL

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REF: VALLETTA 1436

1. SUMMARY: A HIGH-LEVEL SOVIET DELEGATION IS CURRENTLY  
VISITING MALTA FOR TALKS ON TRADE AND COMMERCIAL RELA-  
TIONS. THIS DELEGATION FOLLOWS AN UNOFFICIAL GROUP OF  
TWENTY-FOUR RUSSIANS FROM THE USSR/MALTA CULTURAL AND  
FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY (USSR BASED) WHICH WAS IN MALTA FROM

MAY 24 TO MAY 30. THE MALTA/USSR CULTURAL AND FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY (MALTA BASED) HAS INCREASED ITS ACTIVITIES IN RECENT MONTHS AND PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF ITS OFFICIAL MONTHLY PERIODICAL CALLING FOR A RESIDENT SOVIET EMBASSY. LOCAL PRO-NATIONALIST PRESS HAS VIEWED THESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH CONCERN WHILE THE PRO GOVERNMENT PRESS HAS YET TO COMMENT EDITORIALY. THE GOM HAS ISSUED NO STATEMENTS CONCERNING SOVIET ACTIVITY AND THE SUBJECT HAS NOT BEEN RAISED IN PARLIAMENT. MINTOFF IS PROBABLY PLEASED WITH OPPOSITION REACTION AND MOST LIKELY HOPES THAT OPPOSITION CONCERN WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO MORE PRESSURE ON THE WEST TO "DO SOMETHING" TO INSURE THAT MINTOFF WILL NOT TURN TO THE USSR FOR HELP AFTER MARCH, 1979. END SUMMARY

2. THE OFFICIAL SOVIET TRADE AND COMMERCIAL DELEGATION MENTIONED REFTTEL ARRIVED JUNE 1 FOR TALKS WITH THE GOM. THE DELEGATION IS COMPOSED OF MR. VLADIMIR F. MORDVINOV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE USSR FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, WHO IS LEADING THE DELEGATION; MR. V.S. KOSHENTAEVSKY, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES; MR. Y.V. BALOD, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE USSR FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY DIRECTORATE FOR TRADE WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES; MR. E.F. ROGOV, COUNSELLOR OF THE SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT OF THE USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; MR. A.S. PINSKY, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE V/O "GLAVZAGRANELCTRO" OF THE MINISTRY OF THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY; MR. A.P. MAKUKHIN, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS DIRECTORATE OF THE USSR MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE; MR. A.N. DVORNIKOV, CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS; AND TWO INTERPRETERS. THE DELEGATION WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY MAURICE ABELA, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MCFA. NO MINISTERS WERE PRESENT. THE TALKS ARE SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE JUNE 7.

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3. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS TWENTY-FOUR MEMBERS OF THE USSR/MALTA CULTURAL AND FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY VISITED MALTA FROM MAY 24 TO MAY 30. THIS GROUP WAS HEADED BY MRS. LUDMILA S. BOGATYREVA, A MEMBER OF THE SUPREME SOVIET, AND INCLUDED OFFICIALS FROM INDUSTRIAL CORPORATIONS, PROFESSORS, ECONOMISTS, DOCTORS, JOURNALISTS, AND ONE CATHOLIC PRIEST. THE GROUP VISITED THE MALTA DRYDOCKS, ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL, AND SPENT TWO DAYS IN GOZO. THEY ALSO CALLED ON SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT, MR. AGIUS AND HELD TALKS WITH THE MALTA/USSR CULTURAL AND FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. ANOTHER GROUP OF SOME 300 YOUNG PEOPLE IS

CURRENTLY VISITING MALTA FOR TWO DAYS. THEY ARRIVED ON A SOVIET CRUISE SHIP. INCLUDED IN THE GROUP IS A 50-MEMBER COMPANY OF SOVIET SINGERS AND DANCERS, WHO WILL PERFORM HERE.

4. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MALTA/USSR CULTURAL AND FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY HAVE REPORTEDLY INCREASED DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS. THE SOCIETY ARRANGED FOR THE VISITS OF MEMBERS OF THEIR COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION IN THE SOVIET UNION MENTIONED IN PARA 3. IN ADDITION, THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MALTA/USSR CULTURAL AND FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY IN ITS MARCH, 1978 ISSUE FEATURED AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A SOVIET EMBASSY IN MALTA". THIS EDITORIAL CAREFULLY AVOIDED CRITICIZING THE GOM FOR ITS POSITION ON OPENING  
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A SOVIET EMBASSY IN MALTA, BUT DID SEEK TO REBUT OBJECTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED IN THE "ANTI SOCIALIST AND REACTIONARY PRESS" IN MALTA. ACCORDING TO THIS EDITORIAL, ANTI SOVIET ATTITUDES IN MALTA ARE BASED ON RELIGIOUS PREJUDICES AND A BLIND HATRED OF THE SOVIET UNION. THE EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT SOVIET EMBASSIES DO NOT INTERFERE

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CTME-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00  
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FAA-00 L-03 ACDA-12 STR-07 AID-05 FRB-03 ICA-11  
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01  
DOE-15 SOE-02 PM-05 H-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 /142 W  
-----099277 071811Z /47/75

R 061151Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8232

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USNATO  
USNMR SHAPE BE  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE LINDSEY AS GER  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 VALLETTA 01635

CINCUSAFE LINDSEY FOR INCF  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN FOR INO

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR ADDED ADDEE (CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB  
GER)

IN THE RELIGIOUS MATTERS OF OTHER PEOPLES BUT ARE OPENED  
TO PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND A SOVIET  
EMBASSY IN MALTA WOULD DO THE SAME. THE EDITORIAL CLAIMED  
THAT THE LIBYANS HAVE COME TO APPRECIATE THE MEANING OF  
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SOVIET FRIENDSHIP AND HELP IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST  
IMPERIALISM AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN A STAUNCH  
FRIEND OF THE MALTESE IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE.

5. PRESS REACTION TO THIS HIGHLY VISIBLE INCREASE IN  
SOVIET INTEREST IN MALTA HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LIMITED THUS  
FAR. THE PRO-NATIONALIST TIMES OF MALTA, AFTER NOTING  
THAT THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH NORMALIZING RELATIONS  
WITH THE SOVIET UNION AS LONG AS THESE RELATIONS ARE  
RESTRICTED TO TRADE, ECONOMIC AID, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES,  
CALLED FOR EXTREME CAUTION IN DEALING WITH THE SOVIETS  
BECAUSE OF THEIR RECORD IN DEALING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.  
THE EDITORIAL OBSERVED THAT INCREASED SOVIET INTEREST IN  
MALTA IS COMING AT A TIME WHEN THE TERMINATION OF THE  
NATO BASE AGREEMENT IS DRAWING CLOSE AND CLAIMED  
THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE A PENCHANT FOR EXPLOITING SUCH  
SITUATIONS - "STEPPING IN WHERE WESTERN POWERS STEP OUT".  
THE SUNDAY TIMES OF MALTA, IN AN ANONYMOUS ARTICLE ON THE  
EDITORIAL PAGE, REVIEWED THE RECENT INCREASE IN SOVIET  
ACTIVITY IN MALTA AND MAINTAINED THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE  
NOT INTERESTED IN THE MALTESE COMMUNIST PARTY BUT RATHER  
IN MALTA AS A PART OF A "COMPLEX GEO-POLITICAL  
CHESS GAME". THE ARTICLE CALLED ON LEADERS OF MALTA  
PUBLIC OPINION TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS ENHANCED  
SOVIET INTEREST IN MALTA AND TO GUIDE THE MALTESE  
ELECTORATE ON HOW TO REACT TO SOVIET OVERTURES. IN A  
SIMILAR ARTICLE IN A MALTESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED

BY THE CHURCH (AND PROBABLY WRITTEN BY THE SAME AUTHOR),  
THE ARTICLE ASKED FOR MORE DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT, IN THE  
PRESS, AT PUBLIC MEETINGS, AND IN OTHER FORUMS ON THIS  
ISSUE, WHICH WOULD GIVE MALTESE CITIZENS A GREATER  
OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES ON MALTA-SOVIET RELATIONS  
THE PRO-GOVERNMENT PRESS, WHILE REPORTING ON VISITING  
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SOVIET DELEGATIONS, HAS NOT AS YET MADE ANY EDITORIAL  
COMMENT ON MALTA-SOVIET RELATIONS NOR HAS THE GOVERNMENT  
ISSUED ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENTS. THE SUBJECT HAS NOT BEEN  
RAISED IN PARLIAMENT EITHER.

6. COMMENT: THE VISITS OF THESE DELEGATIONS IS PROBABLY  
AFFECTING THE LOCAL SCENE JUST ABOUT THE WAY MINTOFF  
DESIRES. NATIONALIST SUPPORTERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE  
CHURCH ARE UNDOUBTEDLY BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNEASY ABOUT  
MINTOFF'S INTENTIONS VIS A VIS THE SOVIETS. MINTOFF  
NO DOUBT HOPES THAT THESE CONCERNS WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO  
ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON THE WEST FROM THESE GROUPS TO  
"DO SOMETHING" TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF MINTOFF TURNING  
TO THE SOVIETS FOR HELP AFTER MARCH, 1979. LAINGEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC COOPERATION, MEETINGS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, VISITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
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